

PARKS AND RECREATION

Monthly Report

January 2020



Ups for the month

- *Middle Creek Greenway is 95% completed; users are allowed to use the new Greenway. Final Punch List will be developed on Feb 4th.*
- *Staff has started laying out and planning for the building of the John Sevier Grove on Middle Creek.*
- *Agreements for Management of Youth Baseball and inter-league baseball play with Pigeon Forge got approved. This will be the second year with the arrangement with Pigeon Forge.*
- *Director presented the Master Plan to BOMA and each member of BOMA then chose their priorities. Budget numbers for each priority will now be developed for planning purposes.*
- *The Parks and Recreation Services Advisory Board was appointed and will have its first meeting on February 10th.*
- *On January 24th State/Federal and Local Agencies met @ the Civic Center and discussed BLUEWAY DEVELOPMENT. It was a great meeting for sharing information and meeting other professionals that will be necessary for the Blueway concept to be successful. See Report attached.*



Not So Much an Up for the month-

The West Prong Greenway Extension Project continues to be in a holding pattern waiting on final approval of the re-designed Observation Areas.

Parks and Recreation:

This division includes but is not limited to: All outdoor parks, greenways and all other city and city contracted properties. This division also includes Winterfest, Beautification and Trees with the primary goal of this division being to provide overall departmental leadership and support plus providing clean, safe and aesthetically pleasing public areas throughout the City.





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Aquatic Center

- Aquatics Supervisor and her Pool buddies had a holiday party this month.



Athletics

The following items were accomplished this month by our Athletic Supervisor and Staff:

- Attended SMYBA meeting on January 14th.
- Began SMYBA spring registrations, January 2nd.
- Finished Christmas break basketball clinic with Kendal. (1 night)
- Began coed volleyball league, January 23rd (3 nights)

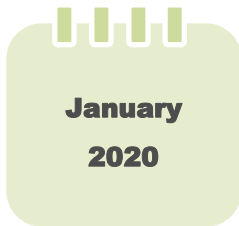


Fitness Center

- Jenny Hollingsworth did her team teaching with all our instructors, our patrons loved her energy. (See attached picture)



- The fitness equipment was serviced.
- 175 employees participated on the Wellness Program, we had 7 new employees and 3 returned.



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Children's Program

- The Active Afternoons Program enjoyed these special events in January: The One on One Basketball Tournament, Relays, Inflatable Bounce Houses and making Frito Chili Pie.
- We completed a successful and safe Flurry of Fun Program on January 6. We had a good five days. The kids seemed to enjoy all the activities and field trips.
- Continued planning for the Summer Adventure and Spring Extreme Programs. An activity schedule for both programs is complete and the "Call List" has been prepared. Some contacts have been made to set up field trips.
- Sent Dependent Care Tax Information to all Active Afternoons Program participants and any other Kids Unlimited customers who requested it.
- Completed Employee Evaluations.



Bowling

- We hosted the SMUSBC Generation Gap Bowling Tournament. The winning team plus several high place finishes came from our Center.
- New Church Bowling League started up. Dandridge First Baptist.
- We had the Smokey Mtn. Autism Group come for an event.
- Tim Parton-Bowling Supervisor represented our Center at the annual Hall of Fame and Awards SMUSBC Banquet on the 25th
- The SCHS Bowling Team advanced to the TSSAA High School Bowling event in Smyrna, Tennessee-

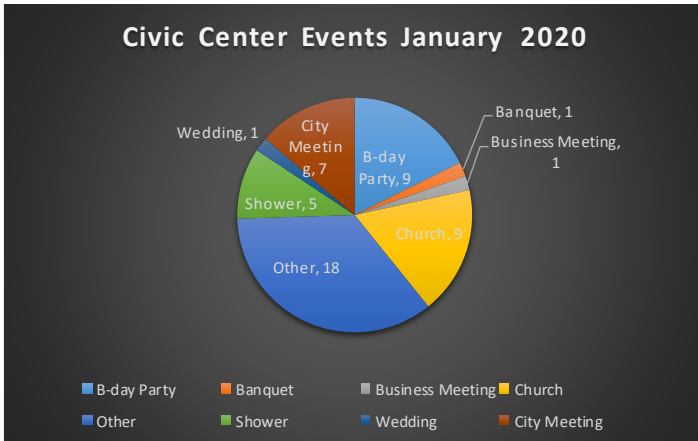




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Civic Center:

The Civic Center provides 11,000 square feet of multi-purpose public meeting and rental areas.

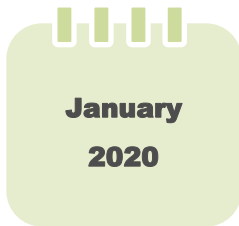
The Civic Center offers; Council Hall, Kitchen along with the LeConte Auditorium.

This facility houses the Administrative Offices for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Civic Center

- **Mike Torres has returned to work with no restrictions. We are thankful he's better and back to work.**
- **Civic Center attendants installed new light switches in LeConte that turn on wall lights and the disco ball.**
- **Civic Center Supervisor attended Master Plan meeting and turned over all Farmer's Market information to be given to SCA's new director who will manage the market this year.**
- **Maintenance staff switched out all halide lights in LeConte for led lights per our request.**
- **Civic Center attendant assembled all the new Councilman chairs in Council Hall.**
- **Heating unit is out in Council Hall so maintenance staff purchased several small heaters to keep the room warm until the unit can be replaced**





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Sevierville Little Pigeon River Blueway Opportunities

January 24, 2020

Sevierville Civic Center



Jane Polansky (TDEC) presented an overview of how to develop a water trail and Alison Bullock (NPS-RTCA) facilitated discussion around the proposed Blueway/Water Trail on the Little Pigeon River that the City of Sevierville is exploring.

Issues:

There are 3 Low head dams in the Sevierville area that are a concern and must be addressed in order to move forward.

One of the low-head dams is near the fairgrounds (downstream of the confluence of the West and East Prongs of the river) and could discussion with TWRA staff indicated it could be avoided with good signage advising boaters to go to the other side of the island. Old Newport Highway

Another low-head dam is located on the West Prong of the river near the High School. It poses a barrier between Walter's State and any other access proposed. There have been reported incidents at this dam with paddlers and poses a safety concern. Old Mill Road/River Mill Rd.

The third low-head dam reported is a historic dam on the West Prong upstream of City Park and would need to be addressed to connect Pigeon Forge.

Water Quality was identified as a concern. The State recently delisted the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River from the 303d list. Park road upstream. Consider establishing a Watershed organization or paddle group to help with cleanup and to increase awareness of water quality in this area.

Access:

PHASE I

Access at City Park was identified as a priority put-in for Phase I.

The City is going to explore if the fairgrounds might be available (public property) and serve as a take-out point downstream, which would provide a longer distance from City Park and better flows below the confluence. (TBD)

Hardin Lane Priority Take-Out would be approximately 1 mile below City Park. While not an ideal length of trip, it would at least provide multiple access points moving forward.



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PHASE 2

Access at Robert Henderson Road

Walter State Access

This section will require removal or modification of the dam near the high school to safely promote as a blueway.

Opportunities:

Plan boating days – need to get out on the water to better understand the river and how it flows, issues, hazards.

Need volunteers to do water quality sampling

Keep the City Beautiful activities could include river cleanup.

USGS Gauges – need to get together records of 5-year flow data

Signage – a logo has been established. Need to develop a full plan on how to sign from highway to the put-in sites, including messaging on river at points where bridges or portages are needed.

Outfitter Rental Operations/Concession. Including Knoxville REI

Need to better engage the paddlers/anglers in the area. Perhaps reach out to TSRA, Chota and other paddling groups to see if any live in the Sevier County area. Roane County is developing a local paddling group to establish a culture of outdoor recreation in their community.

Also need to include any outdoor retailers.

River miles have already been established for the river on USGS Topo Maps.

Clean Stream Grant – TWRA

TWRA also has a program to support riparian areas with tree planting.

US Army Corps of Engineers has 50/50 cost sharing funds available for Ecosystem Dam Removal, flood control and streambank stabilization projects.

Organize River Cleanups – TWRA has grant funding of \$500-\$1000 available for gear/equipment to clean up the river

Other potential funding sources: LPRF, LWCF, RTP, Local Utility companies, REI outfitter grants, TWRA, TVA Stewardship funds for projects, volunteer labor, and donation of materials from hardware stores.

ADA accessibility needs to be addressed and access provided to the launch sites, including parking areas. There are many businesses providing ADA docks/launch platforms that are quite expensive, but I don't recommend them in this environment with flashy water flows after rainfall.

Permits are required from TVA (below the confluence), US Army Corps of Engineers, TDEC aquatic resource alteration permits.

Safety messaging is a significant part of all water trail projects. Example signage is provided. Consider providing trip planning itineraries for paddlers online with information to help them know what to expect. This would include information on desired water levels for an enjoyable trip.